

REMARKS

The indication that claims 1, 3-8 have been allowed is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claims 9-10 and 11-14 have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

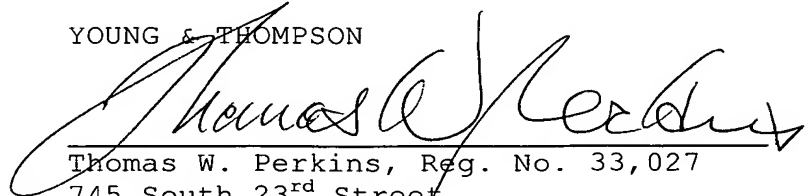
The Official Action rejects claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and §112, first paragraph, rejects claim 12 under §112, second paragraph, and rejects claims 11-14 as anticipated by OKAWA JP Abstract 2000022081 and as anticipated by JONES. These claims have been canceled and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins", is written over a horizontal line.

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